

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5300

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, GR

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER MAVROS HOSTS FAREWELL LUNCHEON
FOR AMBASSADOR TASCA

FOREIGN MINISTER MAVROS HOSTED FAREWELL LUNCHEON FOR AMBASSADOR TASCA SEPTEMBER 3, INCLUDING DCM, EMBASSY COUNSELORS, CHIEF OF JUSMAGG, AND SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS. ATMOSPHERE WAS CORDIAL THROUGHOUT. MAVROS, IN TOASTING AMBASSADOR, MADE POINT THAT USG POLICIES HAD RESULTED IN APPARENT SUPPORT FOR GREEK MILITARY REGIMES DESPITE STRONG INTERESTS OF MOST AMERICANS IN RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN GREECE, AND HE CHARACTERIZED AMBASSADOR TASCA'S ROLE AS DIFFICULT ONE OF CARRYING OUT AN UNPOPULAR POLICY WHILE SEEKING TO MAINTAIN TIES TO GREEK PEOPLE AND TO THOSE OPPOSED TO MILITARY DICTATORSHIP. AMBASSADOR TASCA RESPONDED BY NOTING THAT IT WAS ALWAYS DIFFICULT FOR AN AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, REARED IN FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY, TO SERVE IN A COUNTRY DURING A PERIOD OF MILITARY DICTATORSHIP. HE ADDED THAT ALL AMERICANS WERE PLEASED THAT GREECE HAD RETURNED TO DEMOCRACY AND IT WAS NOW UP TO GREEK PEOPLE AND THEIR GOVERNMENT TO DEMONSTRATE THAT GREECE COULD REALIZE THOSE IDEALS OF INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM WHICH CHARACTERIZED THE TRUE GREEK SPIRIT. MAVROS THEN PRESENTED AMBASSADOR WITH HANDSOME REPRODUCTION OF MINOAN VASE COMMEMORATING SEA POWER. STEARNS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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